

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated January 9, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

The abstract and specification (¶¶ 0097, 0099, 0105) are amended to correct minor informalities. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-13, and 16-21 are hereby amended. Claims 3-4 and 14-15 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 5-13 and 16-21 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the abstract and specification for minor informalities. Applicants have amended the abstract and specification to correct the inadvertent typographic errors. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action objects to claims 2, 4, 10, 13, and 15 for minor informalities. Claims 4 and 15 are canceled. Applicants have amended claims 2, 10, and 13 to correct the minor informalities. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 8 and 11 to more clearly define the subject matter. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

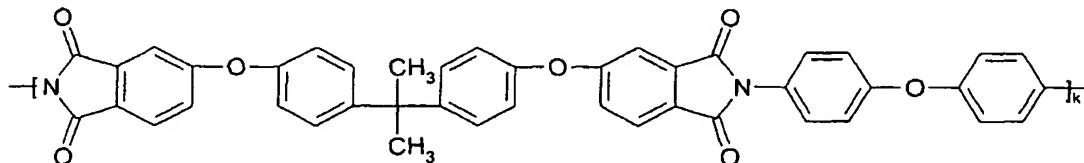
The Office Action rejects claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 18-21 to more clearly define the subject matter. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0496334 to Yano et al. (*Yano*). Claims 3-4 and 14-15 are hereby canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-13, and 16-21.

As required in M.P.E.P. § 2131, in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, “the reference must teach every element of the claim.” *Yano* fails to teach every element of claims 1-2, 5-13, and 16-21., and thus, cannot anticipate these claims.

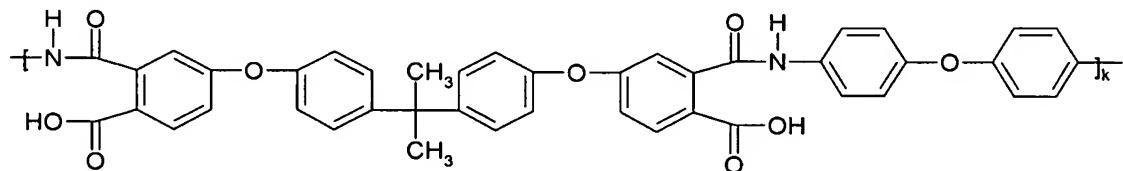
Amended claims 1, 12, and 18 recite, *inter alia*, “the thermoplastic polyimide has a glass transition temperature of 200 to 250 °C.” *Yano* fails to teach at least this element of claim 1. In fact, *Yano* discloses “the second layer thereof having a glass transition point (Tg) of about 250 to 400 °C.” *Yano*, page 2, lines 45-46, emphasis added.

Furthermore, amended claim 1 also recites, “the thermoplastic polyimide ... is a copolymer including the following formula 2a.” Formula 2a is presented below.



*Yano* fails to teach a copolymer including at least formula 2a. Therefore, *Yano* cannot possibly anticipate claim 1. The copolymer including formula 2a is formed from the reaction of bisphenol A dianhydride (4,4'-(4,4'-isopropylidenediphenoxyl)bis(phthalic anhydride)) and a diamine. *Yano* fails to disclose bisphenol A dianhydride, further evidencing the fact that *Yano* does not teach a copolymer including formula 2a, as required by claim 1.

Similarly, amended claims 12 and 18 recite, “the precursor of a thermoplastic polyimide is a copolymer including formula 7a.” Formula 7a is presented below.



*Yano* fails to teach a copolymer including at least formula 7a. Therefore, *Yano* cannot possibly anticipate claims 12 and 18. The copolymer including formula 7a is also formed from the reaction of bisphenol A dianhydride (4,4'-(4,4'-isopropylidenediphenoxyl)bis(phthalic anhydride)) and a diamine. *Yano* fails to disclose bisphenol A dianhydride, further evidencing the fact that *Yano* does not teach a copolymer including formula 7a, as required by claim 7.

Accordingly, claims 1, 12, and 18 are allowable over *Yano*. Claims 2, 5-11, 13, 16-17, and 19-21, which variously depend from claims 1, 12, and 18, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 12, and 18. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-21.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,298,331 to Kanakarajan et al. (*Kanakarajan*). Claims 3-4 and 14-15 are hereby canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-13, and 16-21.

Amended claims 1, 12, and 18, as stated above, recite, *inter alia*, “the thermoplastic polyimide has a glass transition temperature of 200 to 250 °C.<sup>1</sup>” *Kanakarajan* does not teach the glass transition temperature of the polyimide.

Also, as stated above, amended claim 1 recites, “the thermoplastic polyimide is a copolymer including the following formula 2a.” *Kanakarajan* fails to teach a copolymer including at least formula 2a. Therefore, *Kanakarajan* cannot possibly anticipate claim 1. Again, the copolymer including formula 2a is formed from the reaction of bisphenol A dianhydride (4,4’-(4,4’-isopropylidenediphenoxo)bis(phthalic anhydride)) and a diamine. *Kanakarajan* fails to disclose bisphenol A dianhydride, further evidencing the fact that *Kanakarajan* does not teach a copolymer including formula 2a, as required by claim 1.

Similarly, amended claims 12 and 18 recite, “the precursor of a thermoplastic polyimide is a copolymer including the following formula 7a.” *Kanakarajan* fails to teach a copolymer including at least formula 7a. Therefore, *Kanakarajan* cannot possibly anticipate claims 12 and 18. The copolymer including formula 7a is also formed from the reaction of bisphenol A dianhydride (4,4’-(4,4’-isopropylidenediphenoxo)bis(phthalic anhydride)) and a diamine. *Kanakarajan* fails to disclose bisphenol A dianhydride, further evidencing the fact that *Kanakarajan* does not teach a copolymer including formula 7a, as required by claims 12 and 18.

Accordingly, claims 1, 12, and 18 are allowable over *Kanakarajan*. Claims 2, 5-11, 13, 16-17, and 19-21, which variously depend from claims 1, 12, and 18, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 12, and 18. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-21.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,937,133 to Watanabe et al. (*Watanabe*). Claims 3-4 and 14-15 are hereby canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-2, 5-13, and 16-21.

Again, amended claim 1 recites, “the thermoplastic polyimide . . . is a copolymer including the following formula 2a.” *Watanabe* fails to teach a copolymer including at least formula 2a. Therefore, *Watanabe* cannot possibly anticipate claim 1. The copolymer including formula 2a is formed from the reaction of bisphenol A dianhydride (4,4'-(4,4'-isopropylidenediphenoxyl)bis(phthalic anhydride)) and a diamine. *Watanabe* fails to disclose bisphenol A dianhydride, further evidencing the fact that *Watanabe* does not teach a copolymer including formula 2a, as required by claim 1.

Amended claims 12 and 18 recite, “the precursor of a thermoplastic polyimide is a copolymer including the following formula 7a.” *Watanabe* fails to teach a copolymer including at least formula 7a. Therefore, *Watanabe* cannot possibly anticipate claims 12 and 18. The copolymer including formula 7a is also formed from the reaction of bisphenol A dianhydride (4,4'-(4,4'-isopropylidenediphenoxyl)bis(phthalic anhydride)) and a diamine. *Watanabe* fails to disclose bisphenol A dianhydride, further evidencing the fact that *Watanabe* does not teach a copolymer including formula 7a, as required by claims 12 and 18.

Accordingly, claims 1, 12, and 18 are allowable over *Watanabe*. Claims 2, 5-11, 13, 16-17, and 19-21, which variously depend from claims 1, 12, and 18, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 12, and 18. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-21.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 on the ground of nonstatutory obvious-type double patenting as being obvious over claims 1-12 of copending U.S. Application No. 11/229,851. As this is a provisional rejection and both applications are still pending, the Applicants will address this rejection upon an indication of allowability.

The application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to

discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: May 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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